

LEOPOLD BUZZ



Leopold Community & Learning Centre

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YOUR COMMUNITY CONNECTION

ISSUE 22 | AUGUST, 2021



Dr June Alexander is our 'Writing Lines' Group Leader who believes everyone has a story to tell and the way it is told makes all the difference! Her role as the writing group leader is to help to preserve your story in your own words. She specialises in non-fictional story-telling that includes memoirs and social histories, and also provides guidance with fictional writing. In her own words:

"I enjoy empowering people who are wanting to write their story but need encouragement to start. Often more senior people in our community share that, *"My son/daughter wants me to write my story, so that my grandchildren, when they are older, can read about what life was like for me"*. Too often, I hear people say, *"I will write my story one day,"* but sadly, for many, one day never comes. And then it is too late. Writing our life stories not only leaves a cherished footprint for our families to follow but also contributes to the rich tapestry of our community's social history.

Until 2007, I had a long career in journalism in rural and city newspapers, since then, I have written nine non-fiction books. In 2017, I graduated as a Doctor of Philosophy (Creative Writing), having researched and written a book about the usefulness of journaling in managing life challenges.

Today my main focus is mentoring other writers. Your story counts! Importantly, previous writing experience is not necessary! Everyone writes at their own pace."

The Writing Lines Group meets at the Leopold Community & Learning Centre each Wednesday, 1.00pm to 2.30pm.

The cost of \$5 includes a hot cuppa.

For more information contact the Centre on: 52501301

June also does private mentoring: june@junealexander.com

WHERE TO GET HELP

POWER SAVING BONUS

This one-off \$250 payment is designed to help ease the cost of living for eligible Victorian households during the pandemic. To be eligible you must be receiving concession benefits from Centrelink and have a residential electricity account.

Applications for the Power Saving Bonus are made online, however we understand that many people in our communities either lack access to devices or internet, or lack confidence and skills in using technology.

If you need help to submit an application, contact us at the Community Centre on 52 501301 to make appointment with Tristan. You will need to bring in a recent electricity account and your Centrelink pension concession card. This service is free of charge.



KEEPING CONNECTED

Welcome to the 22nd edition of Leopold BUZZ. You can view or download all issues of the newsletter on our website:

www.leopoldcommunitycentre.com.au or email: info@leopoldcommunitycentre.com.au

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Thursday 9.30 – 3.30

Phone: 5250 1301

Magpie Larks

Week 6 An Uneasy Quiet

Things have been pretty quiet since we chased off the Big Black Hulk but in an uncomfortable sort of way, you know, that feeling of impending doom. We have continued our patrols over the neighbourhood and I am keeping my eye on Fluffy Cat, but I think it's too lazy to be of any real danger... You never can tell though.

As I settle myself on the branch of the gumtree opposite Mrs Greyheads, Horace hops down from the branch above with his usual caw. "I can feel it in my bones, something is sure to be happening soon and it won't be good," he says. "Well you're a fountain of good news and happiness aren't you?" I remark, even if I am feeling the same way.

Down the end of the road a white van turns into our street and cruises slowly to a stop outside Bronson the Doberman's territory, we watch this happening with interest. Bronson comes to the gate with his owner just as the guy in the white van steps out; he walks over to them and they start flapping their arms about, pointing at the black car, obviously admiring bombing raid against the Hulk!

It would appear their admiration was short lived and in fact their intent was much more sinister – Horace and I watched as the man from the white van unloaded cages containing just the type of treats a magpie



might find irresistible, the type of food that might make a magpie forget about the trap, the smell was mesmerising! Just as I was about to hop down and take a closer look, Horace brought me to my sense, "we have to warn the others to stay away so they won't be tempted, every magpie has to move out of the street until those traps are gone," Horace cawed loudly. He was right!

"I'll stay here and warn anyone off while you go and tell everyone they have to relocate for a while, it will be hard for you all but at least you'll keep your feathers intact," Horace advised. I watched White Van man for a little longer as he placed his devious devices in the trees along our street and gave him a good swoop on the way to our nest just to show him I was annoyed and no easy catch... He was a doggy character if ever I saw one!

After I had organised the missus and the young tidings to move to a suitable tree in the park by the river I set off on my mission to let the rest of our gulp know what was going down. Why were they after us? The cats were the ones who did not belong, we were going to have to be clever to foil the White Van man's dastardly plan!

Will Bomber and his mates outwit White Van Man? Who will end up in the traps? Will magpie parliament triumph against the odds?



**Mark your calendar and
save the date!**

6th to 9th September, 2021

 Women's
Health Week

 Jean Hailes

We were successful in receiving a \$10,000 grant from the Heart Foundation to run an Adventure Walking Club. The grant includes bus ride to a secret location, healthy lunch and a guide. Participants will enjoy a walk around the mystery location and head back to Leopold.

First Mystery Walk: 27th September, 2021 9.30 – 1.30

Cost: \$5.00 to join club (for insurance purposes)

Limit of 20 people

Phone the Centre on 52 501301 to secure your place



SAVE THE DATE **RECLAIM THE NIGHT 2021**

Planning has started for this year's
Reclaim the Night event in Geelong.

**FRIDAY 29
OCTOBER**

Subject to COVID-19 restrictions, the event will be held in the evening in central Geelong. Full details will be provided in future updates.

If you'd like to take part, why not get a group together to make your banners, placards and signs.

Reclaim the Night is a global women's protest against men's violence. It allows women and their communities to come together to speak out against violence and to celebrate strength.

We encourage all women of all identities, abilities, backgrounds and ages, to attend and join us for all parts of Reclaim the Night 2021.



**SCAN THE QR CODE
TO REGISTER YOUR
INTEREST AND
RECEIVE UPDATES**

WALKING WITH RESPECT ON WADAWURRUNG COUNTRY

**SAFE IN OUR HOMES, SAFE IN OUR STREETS
WOMEN HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE SAFE WHEREVER THEY ARE!**

TRISTAN'S TECH TIPS

Wireless Wi-Fi Doorbells

Wireless doorbells used to be subscription based and cost a fair amount of money but now you can get one from Kmart for \$99.

But the question remains, should you?

In most circumstances I would actually say no but if you are experiencing or have experienced the following it may be a good idea:

- Thefts or vandalism in area
- Frequent deliveries of expensive items
- Troublesome or aggressive neighbours
- Wanting to "screen" doorknockers
- Animals digging up your garden or defecating on lawn
- Get warned when your in-laws show up

Unlike monthly subscription based services like "ring" all you need to do is set up the doorbell, connect it to your smartphone and plug in the door chime. The doorbell itself is detachable from a cradle that you attach to the wall and comes with long lasting batteries that can be recharged.

Finally, if you need to record interactions with the doorbell camera (instead of just using it live) it would be a good idea to purchase a microSD card and add it to the device to record everything the camera picks up.

There are other Camera Doorbells available at other stores too at various prices and potentially higher quality (for the price), please keep an eye out for monthly subscriptions that may be attached.

Leopold Community and Learning Centre is not sponsored by Kmart and your experience may vary.



Leopold Garden Club



The August meeting will be held on the 23rd (4th Monday) and then back to normal (3rd Monday) in September and will continue to cover pruning, allowing attendees to ask specific questions on trees of concern in their garden. I would also like to repeat the pH test offer (see instructions below).

The good news is that there is no real urgency to carry out winter pruning and much can be left to spring early summer pruning. At this time pruning wounds heal quickly, flower buds are easily recognised and injury from low winter temperatures is avoided. Summer pruning may be done to help train trees to the desired form and maintain small tree size. Remembering all pruning has a dwarfing effect.

The general pruning of trees other than fruit trees is for repair (removal of damaged limbs) and shaping for aesthetic reason or special considerations (safety or proximity to fences and buildings).

PH TEST INSTRUCTIONS

Place a sample of the soil you want tested in a small jar. A 2cm layer of your soil (topsoil) is placed in the jar and this is covered with an equivalent amount of distilled water or if not available a similar volume of cold boiled water. Screw on the lid and shake the water and soil together. Do this shaking on and off several times before the sample gets tested. Then allow the sample to settle. Bring your sample in the settled form to the August meeting (this whole process need only be done a day or 2 before the meeting if longer it does not matter). Below is an example to illustrate the set up

Don't forget to join us for Coffee and Good Gardening Companionship on **23rd August, 2021 at 1.00 p.m.**

Dimitrij Betz, Garden Club Co-ordinator



Distilled or boiled
water (not tap water)

Soil Sample